

## **U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Southern District of Iowa*

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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## **BURLINGTON MAN CHARGED IN CHURCH ARSON CASE**

DAVENPORT - United States Attorney Matthew G. Whitaker announced today that the Federal Grand Jury in Davenport has returned an indictment charging Kevin Michael Ravelin, age 29, of Burlington, Iowa, in association with the April 29, 2007 fires at the First United Methodist Church and the First Presbyterian Church in Burlington.

Ravelin is charged as follows:

- Count 1: Arson regarding the First United Methodist Church
- Count 2: Attempted Arson regarding the First Presbyterian Church
- Count 3: Obstruction of the Free Exercise of Religion regarding the First United Methodist Church
- Count 4: Obstruction of the Free Exercise of Religion regarding the First Presbyterian Church
- Count 5: Use of Fire to Commit Federal Felonies, that is, arson and obstruction of the free exercise of religion regarding the First United Methodist Church
- Count 6: Use of Fire to Commit Federal Felonies, that is, arson and obstruction of the free exercise of religion regarding the First Presbyterian Church

If convicted of these offenses, Ravelin faces the following penalties:

- Count 1 (Arson): if it is found that personal injury resulted to a person as a direct and proximate result of the alleged arson, imprisonment of from 7 to 40 years, a fine of not more than \$250,000, or both;

- Count 2 (Attempted Arson): imprisonment of from 5 to 20 years, a fine of not more than \$250,000, or both;
- Count 3 (Obstruction of Free Exercise of Religion): if it is found that personal injury resulted to a person as a direct and proximate result of the alleged arson, imprisonment of not more than 40 years, a fine of not more than \$250,000, or both;
- Count 4 (Obstruction of Free Exercise of Religion): imprisonment of not more than 20 years, a fine of not more than \$250,000, or both;
- Counts 5 and 6 (Use of Fire to Commit Federal Felonies): on each count of conviction, *in addition to* the penalty for such other felony (that is, obstruction of the free exercise of religion), imprisonment for 10 years.

United States Attorney Matthew G. Whitaker reminds the public that each charge is merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent of each and every charge until and unless proven guilty. Arraignment in Federal Court in Davenport is pending.

Mike Boxler, Special Agent in Charge of ATF's Kansas City Filed Division, said these senseless acts of violence and destruction towards any structure, let alone a historical house of worship, will not be tolerated. ATF recognizes the emotional impact this incident has had on the community, and are pleased we were a part of the investigative team in this criminal case.

This case is being prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Iowa. The case has been investigated by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); the ATF National Response Team; the Burlington Police Department; the Burlington Fire Department and Fire Marshal; the State of Iowa Fire Marshal; the Davenport Fire Marshal; the State of Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI); the Iowa DCI Laboratory; and the Des Moines County Sheriff's Department.